University of Delhi is an autonomous body, rules/instructions issued by the Government for its employees are not *ipso-facto* applicable to the employees of the University.

(b) and (c) The University of Delhi has constituted a Welfare Fund for the benefit of the non-teaching employees of the University and its constituent and affiliated colleges/institutions out of which financial assistance, normally not exceeding three months' pay, is available to the widows and dependents of the deceased employees of the University and its colleges. This assitance may be increased upto six months' pay in extreme cases of hardship. This benefit is, however, available only in respect of such employees who are members and are subscribing to the said Welfare Fund.

(d) Does not arise.

Programmes Launched on International Women's Day

3749. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the specific programmes and functions launched and observed in connection with the International Women's Day on March 8, 1997; and

(b) the details of the success and results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) International Women's Day was celebrated by organising a Conference at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 8th March, 1997 by the Department of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the National Commission for Women and the Central Social Welfare Board. An exhibition depicting Government's efforts to raise the status of women was also organised on the occassion. The Conference was graced by the Prime Minister. Besides, an exhibition of products by women artisans and entrepreneurs was held in Delhi Haat, New Delhi alongwith orientation programmes for women artisans, entrepreneurs and cultural shows from 1st to 9th March, 1997 by the Central Social Welfare Board. A cultural programme was organised in New Delhi by the Consortium of Women Entrepreneurs of India with assistance from Department of Women and Child Development and National Commission for Women. The National Commission for Women also organised a series of seminars/ programmes on various issues concerning women during the International Women's Week. State Governments/UT Administrations were advised to organise similar events in the States and Union Teritories.

The Conference, exhibition, seminars etc. organised by the Government and other organisations helped to focus attention and generate awareness on the issues concerning empowerment of women.

Failure of Mid-Day Meal Scheme

3750. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'Mid-Day Meal Scheme' launched on 15th August, 1995 has failed, due to Government's inability to disburse and utilise Rs. 1400 crores allocated for the scheme in 1996-97 Budget; and

(b) if so, the reasons for failure to disburse and appropriate these funds, to the detriment of school children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) As envisaged the Mid-Day Meal Scheme was